

Years	Grade	Age	School District	Performance	Significant Life Events
Pre-1983			ND	Avg	Parents divorce at age 2, lives with mother and stepfather(s). Mother remarries and divorces twice more.
					<i>Move to Ohio</i>
1983-84	K	5	OH	Avg	Mother divorces again; lives with mother and grandmother
1984-85	1	6	OH	Avg	Mother gives children to father
					<i>Move to Texas</i>
1985 (Fall)	2	7	TX	Avg	Lives with father's parents
					<i>Move to Arizona</i>
1986 (Spring)	2	8	AZ	Avg/rmks ¹	Lives with father
1986 (Fall)	3	8	AZ	“	Father marries stepmother (father's second marriage)
					<i>Move to New York</i>
1987 (Spring)	3	9	NY	“	Lives with stepmother's parents
					<i>Move to Ohio</i>
1987-88	4	9	OH	Avg/rmks ²	Lives with father and stepmother
1988-89	5	10	OH	“	“
1989-90	6	11	OH	“	“
					<i>Move to Michigan</i>
1990-91	7	12	MI	<Avg/rmks ³	Stepmother deployed for 8 months; father and great-grandmother share caretaking responsibility
1991-92	8	13	MI	“	Lives with stepmother; father lives at school
					<i>Move to Virginia</i>
					<i>Sister goes to college in NE</i>
1992-93	9	14	VA	<<Avg/rmks ⁴	Lives with father and stepmother
1993-94	10	15	VA	“	“
1994-95	11	16	VA	“	“
1995 (Fall)	12	17	VA	Drops Out	Father and stepmother separate; lives with father; drops out of high school.

Table XX, George's School and Family History

¹ Example teacher comments: poor work habits, inability to keep on task and manage self-discipline.

² Below average standardized test scores; Teacher comments: needs to pick better friends; first “F.”

³ Final grades mostly D's, some C's and B's; below average on standardized tests; school did not want to retain.

⁴ First interim report had 5 of 7 grades = F; began failing core subjects, B's in technical electives.

Sample Indicators (Example 1):

	Grade 3	Grade 7	Grade 10
Attempted suicide during past year			
Used drugs or engaged in substance abuse			Maybe
Has been drug “pusher” during past year			
Sense of self esteem is negative	X	X	X
Was involved in pregnancy during the past year			
Was expelled from school during the past year			
Consumes alcohol regularly			
Was arrested for illegal activity			
Parents have negative attitudes toward education			
Has several brothers or sisters who dropped out			
Was sexually or physically abused last year			
Failed two courses last year			X
Was suspended from school twice last year			
Student was absent more than 20 days last year			
Parent drinks excessively and is an alcoholic			
Was retained in grade			
One parent attempted suicide last year			
Scored below 20 th percentile on standardized tests			
Other family members used drugs during past year			
Attended three or more schools during past five years	X	X	X
Average grades were below “C” last school year			X
Was arrested for driving while intoxicated			
Has and IQ score below 90			
Parents divorced or separated last year			X
Father is unskilled laborer who is unemployed			
Mother is unskilled laborer who is unemployed			
Father or mother died during last year			
Diagnosed as needing special education			
English is not language			
Lives in an inner city, urban area			
The mother is the only parent living in the home		(1 ½ years)	
Is year older than other students in same grade			
Mother did not graduate from high school			
Father lost job during the past year			
Was dropped from athletic team during past year			
Experienced serious illness or accident			

Reference: Frymier, J., Barber, L., Carriedo, R., Denton, D., Gansneder, B., Johnson-Lewis, S., & Robertson, N. (1992). *Final Report - Phi Delta Kappa Study of Students At Risk, Volume 2 Assessing and Predicting Risk among Students in School*. Report prepared by Phi Delta Kappa, Bloomington, Indiana.

Sample Indicators (Example 2):

	Grade 3	Grade 7	Grade 10
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS			
Single Parent			
Public Assistance			
Mother is high school dropout			
Sibling has dropped out			
English not primary language			
PREVIOUS SCHOOL EXPERIENCE			
High absenteeism			
Overage for grade			
Overage by 2 or more years			
Low grades		X	X
Disciplinary problems			X
Ever dropped out			
Does little homework		X	X
Does not read for fun	X	X	X
Has attended 6 or more schools	(4)	X	X
PERSONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS			
External locus of control	X	X	X
Low self-esteem	X	X	X
Not sure of high school graduation			X
Parents do not talk to student about school			
Watches too much television			
ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES			
Has child			
ECOLOGICAL FACTORS			
Neighborhood characteristics (poor)			
Peer group characteristics (dropouts)			X
UNOBSERVED PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS			
Lacks perseverance/resiliency	X	X	X
Pessimistic about future			
MEASURES OF THE PERSISTENCE OF SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OVER TIME			
Low school performance for several years		X	X
TRANSITORY EVENTS THAT OCCUR AFTER THE POINT AT WHICH BASELINE RISK FACTORS ARE MEASURED			
Problems at home	X	X	X
Drug use			X
Having a child			

Reference: Gleason, P. & Dynarski, M. (1998). *Do We Know Whom to Serve? Issues in Using Risk Factors to Identify Dropouts*. A research report submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Princeton, NJ.